

REMARKS

This response is to the Office Action mailed on 06/10/2010.

From the action:

This is Final Action in response to communication filed on 8 March 2010. Claims 40-42, 44-53 and 70-82 are pending in the application. Claims 40-42, 44-53 and 70-82 are rejected.

Applicant's response:

Acknowledged

From the action:

This action is in response to the amendment filed on 03/08/2010. Claims 40-42, 44-53 and 70-82 are pending with claims 40 and 70 being further amended.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1 objection and Claims 40-42, 44-53, and 70-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Claim 1 objection and Claims 40-42, 44-53, and 70-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection have been withdrawn in view of amendments.

Applicant's response:

Acknowledged

From the action:

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 40-42, 44-53, and 70-82 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's response:

Acknowledged

From the action:

Claims 40-42, 44-53, and 70-82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Holbrook et al. (Holbrook) (US Pub. No. 2003/0078985) and further in view of Fraser ("MT-NW Manual) and further in view of Bowman-Amuah (hereinafter Bowman) (US Patent No. 6,601,234).

Regarding claims 40 and 70, Holbrook discloses the invention as claimed a method and communication management system, comprising: a computer appliance associated with a particular user (**see at least abstract, par. [0005,0087,0096; computer networks providing a data distribution service to a substantial customer base, member computers requiring reliable on-demand access to remote network services]**); a data repository coupled to the computer appliance storing a directory of contact identifies, a user-configured plurality of zones, to which contact identities are associated by the user, and user configured communication-management policies that vary by one or both of zone and contact identity (**see at least par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]; wherein central repository of data and creating plurality of zones within messaging nodes with given value are available for users etc.**); and software stored on and executable from a machine-readable storage medium accessible by the computer appliance (**see at least par. [0220]; software configured to do multiple operations of the presented invention etc.**).

Holbrook discloses substantial features of the invention for the given reasons above but do not explicitly disclose wherein software providing at least a policy-enforcement utility and a message-content analyzer; wherein, in communication operations, contact identities and message content is analyzed to determine zone association, and management policies are enforced by the software according to zone association.

In the same field of invention Fraser discloses wherein software providing at least a policy-enforcement utility and a message-content analyzer; wherein, in communication operations, contact identities and message content is analyzed to determine zone association, and management policies are enforced by the software (comprising enforcing a rule that messages must be sent with the proper text encoding for a personality: see third par. on pg. 38; Fraser also discloses a plurality of zones each with unique set of users and each user identified by a unique name in the zone (posting to Usenet: see "Posting New Articles" on p. 25; comprising the body of information included in message sent from a "Personality", which is an identity specific to a user for use in a specific zone, the zone comprising a newspaper: see pg. 35 and "Group Setting" on pg. 41; also see pg. 20 "Reading the News") and wherein communication is supported in multiple modes and protocols within each zone and the system activates a zone based at least one name of active users (see comprising the function which creates "Personalities": pg. 35-36 and selecting personality based on a filter defined by author name: see discussion of "Filters" on pgs. 41-42 and the third par. of pg. 61).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art of networking at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Holbrook into Fraser for a communication management system. Motivation for doing so would have been having data available for plurality of zones within messaging nodes (see Holbrook par. [0128]).

Although, Holbrook discloses substantial features of the invention Holbrook fails to expressly disclose each zone created by the user is associated by a business or by a social activity. Nevertheless, zone created by the user is associated by a business or by a social activity were well known in the art at the time of applicant's invention.

In analogous teaching Bowman discloses wherein each zone created by the user is associated by a business or by a social activity (see at least abstract, Fig. 2 and details,

col. 2, lines 18-33; access, analyzing and controlling business object are being described).

Thus, it would have been obvious for one of the ordinary skill person in the art of networking to combine the teaching of Holbrook into Bowman for social or business zone for the motivation of using different zones for communication system.

Regarding claim 41, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 wherein contact identities may be names or aliases of person or devices (see par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 42, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 further comprising an interface to a network, wherein the communication involves sending or receiving message over the network (see par. [0085, 0087, 0133]; fig. 2 and details associated).

Regarding claim 43, (Cancelled).

Regarding claim 44, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 wherein the system, at the time of receiving or sending a message, determines a zone association to determine management policy to enforce (see par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 45, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 wherein individual ones of the zones are defined by various social environments and/or activity engaged in by a person (see at least par. [0096]).

Regarding claim 46, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 wherein messaging in multiple modes and protocols is supported, including but not limited to voice and text (see at least par. [0012], Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 47, Holbrook disclose the system of claim 40 wherein contact identities of single users or devices may vary by communication mode as well as by zone (see par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 48, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 46 wherein the multiple modes and protocols include email, instant messaging, RSS, voice mode, network-news transport protocol (NNTP), file transport protocol (FTP), really simple syndication (RSS), universal discovery_description and integration (UDDI), lightweight directory_access protocol (LDAP), multipurpose internet mail extensions (MIME, post office protocol (POP), simple mail transport protocol (SMTP), Internet message access protocol (IMAP), session initiation protocol (SIP), text messaging services (TMS), and hypertext transport protocol (HTTP) (Holbrook: par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 49, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 wherein contact identities include both sender and recipients (see Holbrook: par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 50, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 40 further comprising generated alerts from attempted policy violation (see at least par. [0150]).

Regarding claim 51, Holbrook discloses the system of claim 41 wherein contact identity name may be in a form of a URI, an email address, a telephone number, a machine address, an IP address, or a text message (see at least par. [0195]).

Regarding claim 52, Holbrook disclose the system of claim 40 wherein management policy includes automatic handling of incoming communication events, the handling determined by one or both of contact identity and mode of communication (Holbrook: par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195]).

Regarding claim 53, the combination of Holbrook-Fraser further discloses the system of claim 40 further comprising an interactive user interface for a user to create and populate zones, enter contact identities and create, edit, and associate policy (see Holbrook: par. [0007, 0101, 0128, 0195, 0158]; Fraser: creating and editing group setting under Group setting section starting at page. 99).

Regarding claims 54-69, (Cancelled).

Regarding claims 71-82, there claimed limitations are same as previously addressed claims 41-42, and 44-53 except being method claims and therefore are rejected for the same reason as claims 41-42, and 44-53 (see claims 41-42 and 44-53 rejection above).

Applicant's response:

Extensive consideration was kindly provided by examiner Cheema in conferences after receipt of the Final rejection to which this response replies. In consultation with the examiner, and at the examiner's suggestion, extensive amendments were suggested, and a draft of proposed amendments was sent to examiner Cheema, who presented the amendments to his supervisor. As a result of all of this activity, examiner Cheema indicated that his supervisor suggested the amendments be formally presented, after which he (Cheema) would consider the specification and determine if there were any other amendments that needed to be made for allowance, and he could with agreement, make such changes by examiner's amendment.

Applicant has therefore amended the claims in this response exactly as provided in the draft emailed to examiner Cheema on 9/8/2010 at 12:50 PM Pacific time. Every independent claim has been extensively amended, including "...an identity/zone firewall acting as an enforcer of management policies and serving as a gateway through which incoming and outgoing communications pass...". This firewall was suggested as a part

of the claim by examiner Cheema, and is not taught anywhere in any of the references taken either singly or in combination.

The rejections of the unamended claims are therefore moot, and the applicant respectfully requests that the claims be reconsidered for allowance, and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

Summary

As all of the claims, as amended and argued above, have been shown to be patentable over the art presented by the Examiner, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the case be passed quickly to issue.

If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted
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